

Amendments to the Claims: This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application

Listing of Claims:

1-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Currently Amended) ~~The control system according to claim 3,~~ A system for controlling the operation of presence detection devices in a motor vehicle, which comprises in combination:

a) external presence detection means for detecting the entry of objects in a certain observation area outside said vehicle;

b) at least one power supply for supplying at least said external presence detection means;

c) an electronic system including at least means for processing and analyzing first input signals obtained by said external presence detection means and which produces first output signals according to the result of said analysis;

d) condition detection means of at least one closing device of at least one door of said automobile, associated and cooperating with said electronic system;

e) internal presence detection means, which are associated with and cooperate with said electronic system to control said power supply, according to a presence or absence of people inside the vehicle; and

f) tilt detection means, which are associated with and cooperate with said condition detection means of at said least one closing device of at said least one vehicle door and said internal presence detection means, to produce second input signals for said electronic system, according to the vehicle's tilt with respect to a plane of the ground on which said vehicle is standing, conditioned by various circumstances such as load, presence of passengers or braking, based on said tilt detection means,

wherein said tilt detection means are associated with and cooperate with said electronic system, when the vehicle starts to move or once it has stopped, to vary the area of observation to be covered by said external presence detection means, according to the vehicle's tilt with respect to the plane of the ground on which said vehicle is standing, and said power supply is controlled by said electronic system,

according to the opening and closing sequence of at least said closing device of said door, of which there is at least one, of said vehicle, obtained by said condition detection means.

5. (Currently Amended) The control system according to ~~claim 3~~claim 4, wherein said electronic system comprises at least one timer and/or at least one remote control, which are associated with and cooperate with at least said condition detection means of said closing device of said automobile door, to control said power supply.

6. (Currently Amended) The control system according to ~~claim 2~~claim 4, wherein the control of said power supply includes activating or deactivating said power supply by means of said electronic system.

7. (Currently Amended) The control system according to ~~claim 1~~claim 4, wherein said external presence detection means comprises at least one electromagnetic detection device.

8. (Previously Presented) The control system according to claim 7, wherein said electromagnetic detection device comprises at least one element selected from the group consisting of a camera, an infra-red system, a radar system and an ultrasound system, or any combination thereof.

9. (Currently Amended) The control system according to ~~claim 1~~claim 4, wherein said external presence detection means includes at least one magnetic field distortion detection device.

10. (Previously Presented) The control system according to claim 7, wherein said external presence detection means also includes at least one magnetic field distortion detection device in combination with said electromagnetic detection device, of which there is at least one.

11. (Previously Presented) The control system according to claim 10, wherein it includes at least two of said electromagnetic detection devices and/or at least two of said magnetic field distortion detection devices, one on each side of the automobile.

12. (Previously Presented) The control system according to claim 10 wherein the electromagnetic detection devices and/or the magnetic field distortion detection

devices are mounted, at least partially, in respective external rear-view mirror housings on said automobile.

13. (Currently Amended) The control system according to ~~claim 1~~ claim 4, wherein said external area of observation exterior covers at least one blind spot.

14. (Currently Amended) The control system according to ~~claim 2~~ claim 4, wherein said internal presence detection means include at least one device selected from the group consisting of at least one weight sensor, at least one capacity sensor, arranged on at least one automobile seat, at least one infra-red detector, at least one microwave detector and at least one camera, arranged inside the vehicle, or any combination thereof.

15-17. (Cancelled)

18. (Currently Amended) ~~The control method according to claim 17~~ A control method for the operation of presence detection devices in a motor vehicle, comprising:

detecting, using an external presence detection means, the entry of objects in a certain area of observation external to said vehicle;

powering, with at least one power supply, at least said external presence detection means;

processing and analyzing, with an electronic system, first input signals obtained by said external presence detection means, said electronic system producing first output signals according to the result of said analysis;

determining a condition, using a condition detection means, of at least one closing device of at least one automobile door, which are associated with and cooperate with said electronic system; and

controlling said power supply, by means of said electronic system, according to:

a) the opening and closing sequence of at least said closing device of said vehicle door, of which there is at least one, based on said condition obtained by said condition detection means,

b) a presence or absence of people inside the vehicle, using an internal presence detection means, which are associated with and cooperate with said electronic system, and

c) according to the activated or deactivated condition of the vehicle ignition,

wherein, when said power supply and the vehicle ignition are deactivated and the vehicle itself is also stopped, it comprises the following steps:

- a) detecting a door opening action or opening and closing sequence,
- b) activating said power supply following said detections,
- c) activating a timer included in said electronic system, when closing said door, for a time T1, maintaining power supply activated, and
- d) deactivating said power supply if after said time T1 the vehicle ignition is still not activated.

19. (Previously Presented) The control method according to claim 18, further comprising, after said step d), the following steps:

- e) reactivating said power supply if step d) has been performed and a second door opening action or opening and closing sequence has been detected,
- f) reactivating said timer, for a time T2, when closing the door, and
- g) maintaining said power supply activated if after said time T2 the vehicle ignition has been activated.

20. (Previously Presented) The control method according to claim 19, wherein said times T1 and T2 are equal.

21. (Currently Amended) ~~The control method according to claim 17~~ A control method for the operation of presence detection devices in a motor vehicle, comprising:

detecting, using an external presence detection means, the entry of objects in a certain area of observation external to said vehicle;

powering, with at least one power supply, at least said external presence detection means;

processing and analyzing, with an electronic system, first input signals obtained by said external presence detection means, said electronic system producing first output signals according to the result of said analysis;

determining a condition, using a condition detection means, of at least one closing device of at least one automobile door, which are associated with and cooperate with said electronic system; and

controlling said power supply, by means of said electronic system, according to:

a) the opening and closing sequence of at least said closing device of said vehicle door, of which there is at least one, based on said condition obtained by said condition detection means,

b) a presence or absence of people inside the vehicle, using an internal presence detection means, which are associated with and cooperate with said electronic system, and

c) according to the activated or deactivated condition of the vehicle ignition,

wherein, when said power supply is activated and the vehicle ignition is deactivated and the vehicle itself is also stopped, it comprises the following steps:

- a) detecting a door opening and closing sequence,
- b) activating a timer incorporated in electronic system, for a time T1, and
- c) deactivating said power supply if after said time T1 the vehicle ignition has still not been activated.

22. (Previously Presented) The control method according to claim 21, further comprising, after said step b), the following step, as an alternative to step c):

- d) deactivating the timer if a second door opening action has been detected,

23. (Previously Presented) The control method according to claim 22, further comprising, after said step d), the following step:

- e) reactivating the timer if a second door closing action has been detected.

24. (Currently Amended) The control method according to ~~claim 32~~claim 18 wherein when power supply and the vehicle ignition are deactivated and the vehicle itself is stopped, it comprises the following steps:

- a) detecting a door opening action,
- b) detecting a presence of at least one person inside the vehicle, using the said internal presence detection means,
- c) detecting a closing action of said door, and
- d) activating said power supply following said detections.

25. (Currently Amended) The control method according to ~~claim 32~~claim 18 wherein when said power supply is activated, the vehicle ignition is deactivated and the vehicle itself is stopped, it comprises the following steps:

- a) detecting a door opening action,
- b) detecting the absence of a person who was inside the vehicle, using said internal presence detection means,
- c) detecting a closing action of said door, and
- d) deactivating said power supply following said detections.

26. (Currently Amended) The control method according to ~~claim 32~~claim 18 further comprising producing second input signals for electronic system, also according to the vehicle's tilt with respect to the plane of the ground on which the vehicle is standing, conditioned by various circumstances such as load, presence of passengers or braking, using for this purpose tilt detection means, which are associated with and cooperate with said condition detection means of at least one closing device of at least one automobile door and said internal presence detection means.

27. (Previously Presented) The control method according to claim 26, further comprising varying the area of observation to be covered by said external presence detection means, when the vehicle starts to move or once it has stopped, according to the vehicle's tilt with respect to the plane of the ground on which the vehicle is standing, using for this purpose said tilt detection means, which are associated with and cooperate with said electronic system.

28. (Previously Presented) The control method according to claim 26, further comprising detecting the vehicle's tilt when the ignition is deactivated, the vehicle is stopped and a door opening action has been detected.

29. (Previously Presented) The control method according to claim 28, further comprising detecting the vehicle's tilt when the ignition is activated and the vehicle is running.

30. (Currently Amended) ~~The control method according to claim 17~~ A control method for the operation of presence detection devices in a motor vehicle, comprising:

detecting, using an external presence detection means, the entry of objects in a certain area of observation external to said vehicle;

powering, with at least one power supply, at least said external presence detection means;

processing and analyzing, with an electronic system, first input signals obtained by said external presence detection means, said electronic system producing first output signals according to the result of said analysis;

determining a condition, using a condition detection means, of at least one closing device of at least one automobile door, which are associated with and cooperate with said electronic system; and

controlling said power supply, by means of said electronic system, according to:

a) the opening and closing sequence of at least said closing device of said vehicle door, of which there is at least one, based on said condition obtained by said condition detection means,

b) a presence or absence of people inside the vehicle, using an internal presence detection means, which are associated with and cooperate with said electronic system, and

c) according to the activated or deactivated condition of the vehicle ignition,

wherein when said power supply and the vehicle ignition are deactivated and the vehicle itself is also stopped, it comprises the following steps:

- a) detecting an activation signal from a remote control, or key, included in electronic system,
- b) detecting a door opening and closing sequence, and
- c) activating said power supply following said detections.

31. (Currently Amended) ~~The control method according to claim 17~~ A control method for the operation of presence detection devices in a motor vehicle, comprising:

detecting, using an external presence detection means, the entry of objects in a certain area of observation external to said vehicle;

powering, with at least one power supply, at least said external presence detection means;

processing and analyzing, with an electronic system, first input signals obtained by said external presence detection means, said electronic system producing first output signals according to the result of said analysis;

determining a condition, using a condition detection means, of at least one closing device of at least one automobile door, which are associated with and cooperate with said electronic system; and

controlling said power supply, by means of said electronic system, according to:

a) the opening and closing sequence of at least said closing device of said vehicle door, of which there is at least one, based on said condition obtained by said condition detection means,

b) a presence or absence of people inside the vehicle, using an internal presence detection means, which are associated with and cooperate with said electronic system, and

c) according to the activated or deactivated condition of the vehicle ignition,

wherein when power supply is activated, the vehicle ignition is deactivated and the vehicle itself is also stopped, it comprises the following steps:

- a) detecting a door opening and closing sequence,

- b) detecting a deactivating signal from a remote control, or key, included in electronic system, and
- c) deactivating said power supply following said detection.

32. (Cancelled)